(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is providing financial assistance, for undertaking research to Research Centres of the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Rahuri, Maharahtra though All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane. The details of financial assistance is provided in statement.

Statement

Assistance through AICRP on Sugarcane to Maharashtra State

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Centre	Name of Univ.	Allocation (1996-97)
1.	Padegaon	M.P.K.V., Rahuri	5.80
2.	Kolhapur	M.P.K.V., Rahuri	3.74

गुजरात में कम वर्षा के कारण हुआ नुकसान

11. **श्री चिमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि चालू वर्ष के दौरान गुजरात में, विशेषकर कच्छ जिले में अत्यधिक कम वर्षा होने के कारण 90 प्रतिशत फसलें नष्ट हो गई हैं और पशुधन को अन्यत्र ले जाना पड़ा है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो उक्त अवधि के दौरान इस जिले में वर्षा और सूखे संबंधी तथ्य तथा ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) विशेष रूप से इस जिले के लिए प्राकृतिक आपदा राहत कोष से अब तक आवंटित की गई तथा वास्तव में जारी की गई वित्तीय सहायता की राशि से संबंधित ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) क्या इस संबंध में केन्द्र सरकार को राज्य सरकार से कोई विस्तृत रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हुई है; और यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र): (क) और (ख) गुजरात सरकार से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार दक्षिण-पश्चिमी मानसून 1996 के दौरान 57 प्रतिशत की सीमा तक अपर्याप्त वर्षा होने के कारण राज्य सरकार ने कच्छ जिले में 9 तालुकों के 896 गांवों में से 687 गांवों को अभावग्रस्त तथा 20 गांवों को अर्ध-अभावग्रस्त घोषित किया है।

(ग) सूखा राहत उपायों के लिए गुजरात के विभिन्न जिलों को आपदा राहत कोष से आबंटित और निर्मुक्त की गई धनराशियों को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण संलग्न है (नीचे देखिए)।

(घ) गुजरात सरकार ने विभिन्न जिलों में सूखे की स्थिति तथा प्रस्तावित राहत उपायों का विवरण देते हुए एक ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत किया था। भारत सरकार चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान गुजरात सरकार को आपदा राहत कोष के अपने हिस्से के रूप में 104.70 करोड़ रुपये पहले ही निर्मुक्त कर चुकी है।

विवरण

सूखा राहत उपायों के लिए गुजरात में विभिन्न जिलों के लिए आपदा राहत कोष से आबंटित तथा निर्मुक्त की गई धनराशि को दर्शाने वाला विवरण

(रुपये लाख में)

क्र० सं०	जिला	सूखे के लिए आपदा राहत कोष से आबंटित और निर्मुक्त की गई धनराशि
1.	अहमदाबाद	3.00
2.	अमरेली	28.00
3.	बनासकान्ठा	302.17
4.	वड़ोदरा	—
5.	कच्छ-भुज	2019.00
6.	खेड़ा	13.00
7.	भरूच	3.00
8.	भावनगर	298.00
9.	सूरत	—
10.	जूनागढ़	30.00
11.	जामनगर	178.00
12.	साबरकांठा	168.00
13.	महसाना	4.44
14.	वलसाद	1.00
15.	सुरेन्द्रनगर	98.29
16.	राजकोट	217.00
17.	गांधी नगर	—
18.	पंचमहल	383.00
19.	दंग्स-अहवा	—
		3745.90

Coconut disease in Kerala

12. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment are aware of the fact that the coconut growers in Kerala have been

facing a threat of serious disease which has been affecting their coconut trees for the last many decades resulting in the loss of the yielo;

(b) whether Government have done anything so far to save these growers; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not giving much importance to R&D in the agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India through Coconut Development Board is providing assistance for the uprooting of root wilt affected palms replanting and rehabilitating less affected gardens. So far Rs. 25.296 crore has been released to the State of Kerala during the 8th Plan. The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is imple-menting a major research programme to find causes and control of the disease. CPCRI has recently identified root wilt-tolerant mother tree and has started producing disease tolerant planting material since 1995-96 for which a revolving fund scheme at a cost of Rs. 33 lakh has also been sanctioned.

Growth of agriculture during Eighth Plan

13. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual plan target set for the growth of agriculture during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) how far these targets have been achieved;

(c) the reasons for low growth during 1995-96;

(d) the prospects for 1996-97 so far as agricultural growth is concerned; and

(e) the details of measures taken by Government to accelerate the growth of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) As against the target set for the growth of agriculture during the Eighth Five Year Plan at 3.1 per cent per annum, the average growth achievement of agriculture and allied sectors in terms of gross domestic product at constant prices is observed provisionally at 3.6 per cent per annum.

(c) The low growth in agriculture sector during 1995-96 was attributed to fall in crop production, particularly foodgrains, on account of unfavourable weather conditions, low consumption of fertilizer in rabi season, etc.

(d) As per the current assessment made, the growth in agriculture and allied sectors is expected to be around 3.7 per cent for 1996-97.

(e) The Government is implementing various crop specific and sector specific development programmes to accelerate the growth in agriculture and allied sectors besides providing market and price support.

Production of groundnut

14. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States producing groundnut and the annual production of groundnut in these States during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the production of groundnut has declined during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken to assist the groundnut growers for increasing the production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The major groundnut producing States are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The Annual Production of groundnut in these States during the last three years is given in statement. (*see* below)

(b) and (c) The production of groundnut during the current financial year i.e. 1996-97 is estimated to be 91.2 lakh tonnes which is an all time high production of groundnut during the last three years.

(d) In order to increase the production of groundnut including other oilseeds, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in 22 States. The programme provides financial assistance for various critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits,